

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0009] of Applicants' publication of the application US 2007/0142664 A1 with the following:

---[0009] In U.S. Pat. No. 4,777,285 the preparation of alkyl pentenoates from reacting 6-membered or 7-membered lactones with an alcohol is disclosed. Gas phase reactions with a ~~lactone-to-methanol~~ methanol-to-lactone ratio of 1:1 and 3.6:1 are exemplified. A lactone-to-alcohol ratio from 1:0.5 to 1:10 is mentioned.---

Please replace paragraph [0038] of Applicants' publication of the application US 2007/0142664 A1 with the following:

---[0038] In FIG. 2 is shown a distillation column 20, which has a reaction zone 21 containing the solid acidic catalyst, a stripping section 22 below the catalyst bed and a rectifying section 23 above the catalyst bed. The stripping and rectifying sections 22, 23 and the reaction zone 21 each comprise at least one theoretical fractionation stage. Gamma valerolactone is introduced into column 20 above reaction zone 21 via line 24 and methanol is introduced into column 20 below reaction zone 21 via line 25. A liquid bottoms stream comprising gamma valerolactone is withdrawn from distillation column 20 via line 26. Part of the bottoms stream is vaporised in reboiler 27 and re-introduced in column 20 via line 28. Part of the liquid bottoms stream is recycled to feed line 24 via line 29 and re-introduced in column 20 with the fresh lactone. A small part of the bottoms stream may be purged via line 30. A gaseous overhead stream comprising methyl pentenoate, water and methanol is withdrawn from column 20 via line 31 and condensed in condenser 32. Part of the condensed stream is withdrawn as product stream via line ~~32~~ 33. The remainder is reintroduced in column 20 just above rectifying section 23, via line 34.---